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Dear Agriculturalist:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all farmers, ranchers, elevator operators, and other ag businesses who voluntarily contributed data and supported us in many other ways during the past year. It is through your efforts that these timely, accurate statistics are available for all agricultural decision makers.

We are looking forward to serving you next year and wish you a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Mark Harris
Director

Nebraska Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Nebraska feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more head contained 2.21 million cattle on feed on November 1, up 3 percent from last year and 5 percent above November 1, 2002. Placements of cattle into feedlots during October totaled 600,000 head, down 6 percent from 2003 but 15 percent above 2002. Fed cattle marketings for the month of October totaled 325,000 head, up 2 percent from last year but 10 percent below 2002. Other disappearance during October totaled 5,000 head.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

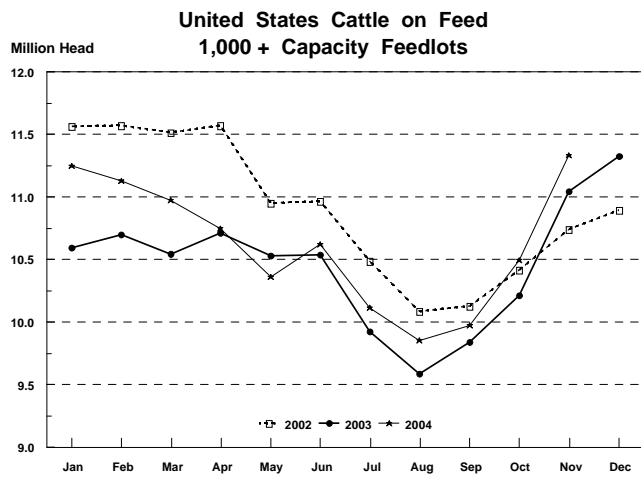
Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on November 1, 2004. The inventory was 3 percent above November 1, 2003 and 5 percent above November 1, 2002. Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.70 million, 3 percent below 2003 but 13 percent above 2002. Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.80 million, 3 percent below 2003 and 9 percent below 2002.

**Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other Disappearance,
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States, 2003-2004**

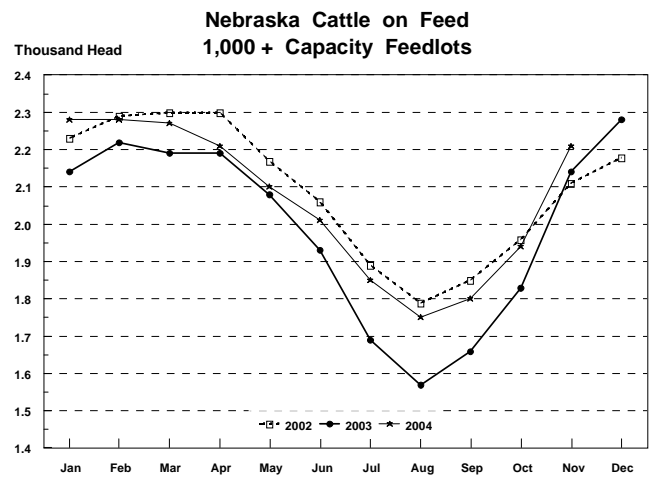
STATE	November 1 Number on Feed ¹			October Placements			October Marketings			October Other Disappearance ²		
	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> <u>2003</u>	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> <u>2003</u>	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> <u>2003</u>	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> <u>2003</u>
	1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent	
Arizona	278	321	115	26	48	185	22	21	95	1	4	400
California	495	525	106	68	70	103	54	59	109	4	6	150
Colorado	1,050	1,090	104	270	260	96	160	185	116	10	5	50
Idaho	295	305	103	88	78	89	60	47	78	3	1	33
Iowa	350	430	123	113	125	111	72	68	94	1	2	200
Kansas	2,430	2,400	99	570	570	100	410	375	91	30	15	50
Nebraska	2,140	2,210	103	640	600	94	320	325	102	10	5	50
New Mexico	118	134	114	19	29	153	20	29	145	4	2	50
Oklahoma	350	360	103	78	87	112	74	64	86	4	3	75
South Dakota	177	169	95	68	65	96	34	38	112	2	1	50
Texas	2,840	2,880	101	680	650	96	530	520	98	30	20	67
Washington	200	180	90	51	43	84	45	37	82	1	1	100
Other States	320	330	103	110	76	69	54	30	56	1	1	100
U.S.	11,043	11,334	103	2,781	2,701	97	1,855	1,798	97	101	66	65

¹Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. ²Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Source: USDA NASS Cattle on Feed November 19, 2004



Source: USDA Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service



Source: USDA Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service

**Cattle on Feed: Number Placed on Feed By Weight Group, 1,000+ Capacity
Feedlots, By Month, State, and United States, 2003-2004**

State	During October									
	Under 600		600-699		700-799		800 Plus		Total	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
<i>1,000 Head</i>										
Colorado	88	85	69	65	54	50	59	60	270	260
Kansas	185	175	170	165	130	130	85	100	570	570
Nebraska	245	187	187	189	88	103	120	121	640	600
Texas	250	215	235	200	145	155	50	80	680	650
Other States	255	250	135	145	91	91	140	135	621	621
U.S.	1,023	912	796	764	508	529	454	496	2,781	2,701

Source: USDA NASS Cattle on Feed November 19, 2004

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

October 2004 number slaughtered and changes from last year and last month are shown below. October 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. October 2004 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays.

**Livestock Slaughter: By Commodity,
Nebraska and United States,
October 2004 with Comparisons**

Item	Total ¹	Oct. 2004 Percent of	
		Oct. 2003	Sep. 2004
Nebraska	<i>1,000 Head</i>		
Cattle, head	586.0	92	100
Hogs, head	634.2	95	103
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	605.5	98	101
United States			
Cattle, head	2,745.7	91	100
Calves, head	62.5	72	93
Hogs, head	8,970.2	93	100
Sheep & Lambs, head	241.4	91	99
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	3,921.2	94	100

¹ Excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Source: USDA NASS Livestock Slaughter, November 19, 2004.

**Stocks in Cold Storage: By Commodity,
United States, October 2004 with Comparisons**

Commodity	Stocks	Oct. 2004 Percent of	
		Oct. 2003	Sep. 2004
1,000 Lbs.			
Total red meats	917,817	110	103
Beef	459,023	122	100
Pork	445,212	100	105
Poultry	1,291,446	109	99
Turkey	490,375	84	93
Chicken	800,245	133	103

Source: USDA NASS Cold Storage, November 19, 2004.

**Poultry: Layers and Eggs, Nebraska and
United States, October 2004 with Comparisons**

Item	2003	2004	2004/2003
<i>Millions</i>			
<i>Percent</i>			
Number of Layers			
Nebraska	11.8	12.0	102
30 States	313.0	321.9	103
United States	335.3	344.2	103
Eggs Produced			
Nebraska	271	269	99
30 States	6,948	7,154	103
United States	7,439	7,643	103
Chickens Hatched, October			
United States			
Egg-type	34.8	36.0	103
Broiler	735.0	757.5	103

Source: USDA NASS Chicken and Eggs, November 22, 2004.

Milk Cows and Production: By Month, 20 Selected States, 2003-2004¹

Month	Milk Cows ²		Milk per Cow ³		Milk Production ³		
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million pounds</i>		<i>Percent</i>
January	7,810	7,716	1,615	1,619	12,616	12,491	99
February	7,811	7,716	1,489	1,528	11,628	11,787	101
March	7,810	7,717	1,666	1,658	13,014	12,798	98
April	7,800	7,721	1,627	1,630	12,693	12,588	99
May	7,787	7,722	1,671	1,684	13,013	13,007	100
June	7,785	7,742	1,596	1,603	12,428	12,410	100
July	7,780	7,759	1,597	1,616	12,421	12,541	101
August	7,771	7,766	1,571	1,594	12,207	12,376	101
September	7,764	7,769	1,511	1,529	11,731	11,878	101
October	7,743	7,769	1,561	1,576	12,083	12,245	101
November	7,721		1,517		11,709		
December	7,713		1,596		12,313		
Annual	7,775		19,017		147,856		

¹ 2004 revised. ²Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. ³Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Source: USDA NASS Milk Production, November 16, 2004.

Farm Labor: Number and Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers, Selected Regions and United States, October 12-18, 2003 & October 10-16, 2004 ¹

Selected Regions and United States, October 12-19, 2003 & October 19-26, 2004										
Region ²	Hired Workers		Wage Rates							
			All Hired Workers		Type of work					
	Field				Livestock		Field & Livestock			
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Dollars Per Hour</i>							
Lake	72	72	9.70	9.77	9.25	9.06	9.11	9.51	9.20	9.20
Cornbelt I	45	47	9.34	9.98	8.76	9.40	9.67	9.40	8.91	9.40
Cornbelt II	26	22	9.30	9.72	8.62	9.00	9.83	9.38	8.87	9.16
Northern Plains	35	44	9.31	9.76	9.29	9.70	8.59	9.00	9.07	9.50
Southern Plains	54	44	8.01	9.34	7.12	8.44	7.70	8.68	7.39	8.53
Mountain I	33	29	8.24	8.84	7.80	8.25	8.05	8.62	7.93	8.40
Mountain II	20	19	8.97	9.40	8.11	8.32	8.12	8.95	8.11	8.56
United States	891	851	9.05	9.30	8.42	8.60	8.64	8.91	8.47	8.67

¹ Excludes agricultural service workers. ² Regions consist of the following: Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin; Cornbelt I: Illinois, Indiana, Ohio; Cornbelt II: Iowa, Missouri; Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota; Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas; Mountain I: Idaho, Montana, Wyoming; Mountain II: Colorado, Nevada, Utah.

Source: USDA NASS Farm Labor, November 19, 2004.

Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates, Selected States and United States, 2003 - 2004 ^{1 2}

State	All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>Dollars per hour</i>					
Colorado	9.13	9.73	8.27	9.14	8.42	9.09
Illinois	9.88	10.21	9.04	9.26	9.27	9.34
Indiana	9.73	9.31	8.95	8.69	9.00	8.59
Iowa	10.34	9.64	9.74	8.49	9.87	8.94
Kansas	9.54	9.35	8.73	8.64	8.97	8.75
Michigan	9.74	9.40	8.42	8.32	8.86	8.65
Minnesota	10.23	10.93	9.80	10.13	9.56	10.02
Missouri	9.11	9.29	8.67	9.01	8.70	8.95
Nebraska	8.67	8.94	8.28	8.60	8.39	8.65
North Dakota	9.49	9.85	9.32	9.89	9.32	9.78
South Dakota	9.23	9.44	8.46	9.02	8.94	9.07
Wyoming	7.17	7.16	6.70	7.01	6.59	6.69
United States ³	9.08	9.22	8.31	8.45	8.42	8.55

¹ Excludes agricultural service workers. ² Annual rates are averages of the wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October. ³ Excludes Alaska.

Source: USDA NASS Farm Labor, November 19, 2004.

Prices Received By Farmers

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 114, based on 1990-92=100, is 1 point above October. Producers received higher commodity prices for tomatoes, eggs, hogs, strawberries, and grapes. Lower prices were received for lettuce, oranges, soybeans, corn, and cattle. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index.

Increased average marketings of dairy, cattle, and cotton offset decreased marketings of soybeans, peanuts, and potatoes.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2 points (1.7 percent) from November 2003. The Food Commodities Index increased 3 points (2.6 percent) from last month to 120. The index is unchanged from November 2003.

Prices Received: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, Preliminary November 2004 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Nebraska			United States				
		November 2003 ¹	October 2004 ¹	November 15, 2004	November 2003 ¹	October 2004 ¹	November 15, 2004	% of Parity	Parity Price ²
Wheat	Bushels	\$ 3.44	\$ 3.11	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.61	\$ 3.44	\$ 3.51	35	\$10.10
Corn	Bushels	2.20	2.15	2.05	2.20	2.15	2.00	30	6.77
Oats	Bushels	1.25	1.77	1.70	1.29	1.45	1.36	35	3.94
Grain Sorghum	Cwt.	4.04	3.28	3.20	4.13	3.15	3.07	28	11.00
Soybeans	Bushels	7.11	5.50	5.50	7.05	5.56	5.31	33	15.90
Hay, All, Baled	Ton	55.00	51.00	51.00	81.50	89.80	86.20		
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	56.00	51.00	51.00	86.80	97.80	94.00		
Other, Baled	Ton	50.00	50.00	50.00	67.50	68.60	67.80		
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	16.40	22.20	24.20	19.10	24.50	27.20	52	52.10
Hogs	Cwt.	36.30	53.90	56.30	34.70	52.10	55.30	53	105.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	36.50	54.10	56.50	34.90	52.60	55.80		
Sows	Cwt.	28.90	41.90	44.60	29.10	42.40	44.50		
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	101.00	90.00	87.20	93.40	86.10	84.20	50	170.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	103.00	91.20	88.30	99.90	91.00	89.10		
Cows	Cwt.	50.50	52.70	51.70	47.70	49.90	48.60		
Calves	Cwt.	120.00	132.00	128.00	111.00	126.00	124.00	54	228.00
Sheep	Cwt.	36.50	39.30		40.50	40.70			83.90
Lambs	Cwt.	90.00	89.00		99.70	98.20			202.00

¹ Entire month average except hay.

² Parity price based on data for November 2004.

Source: USDA NASS Agricultural Prices, November 28, 2004.

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